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(58) Field of Search

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(54) Abstract Title

An electronic television programme guide

(57) An electronic programme guide (EPG) database is interrogated to produce a list of programmes that may be of interest to a viewer. Queries may be composed by users or may be developed automatically by inspection of viewing habits or viewer profiles. Viewer profiles may be produced by interrogation of the viewer. User queries may be stored hierarchically and queries relating to different viewers may be merged. Queries may be allowed to run continually to uncover programmes of interest as they arise in the EPG. Queries may restrict selection of certain categories. A 10-key alphanumeric keypad may be used to enter query data. The EPG interprets the data from each key to mean any of the numbers or letters associated therewith and identifies all possible programmes and channels and networks. As the viewer continues to add letters or numbers, the list narrows dynamically until only a few choices remain. The EPG data may be transmitted with the TV signals and may contain links to Web pages.

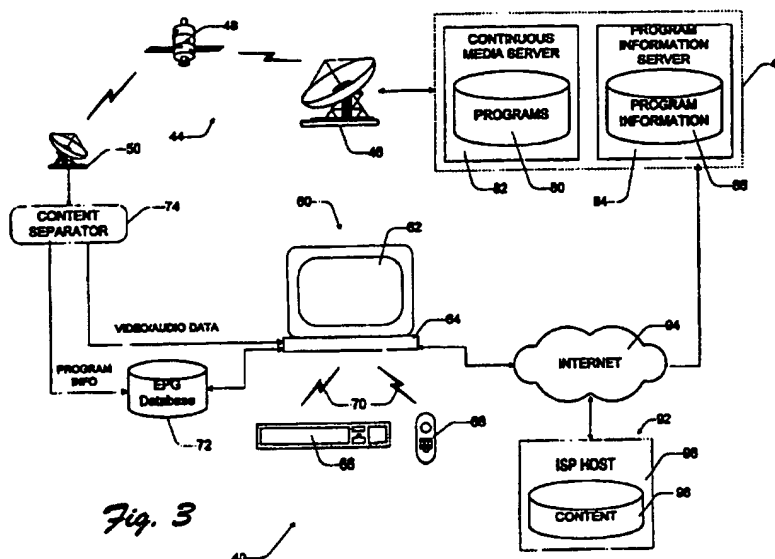


Fig. 3

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ONLINE: WPI, INTERNET

(54) Abstract Title

Transmission, reception and display of combined video data in a set area of a hyperlink data file.

(57) A video broadcast system includes a broadcast source that broadcasts a video stream and provides accompanying supplemental data files. Each supplemental data file is an HTML file having instructions for rendering a hyperlink overlay on the video stream. A receiver is configured to receive the video stream and accompanying supplemental data files and to display the hyperlink overlays in conjunction with the video stream. The overlays are designed having backgrounds of a pre-determined value which is used as a color key in receiving equipment. Specifically, the receiving equipment is configured to render video only in display areas that are set to the color key value. Thus, the video stream is rendered "behind" the hyperlink overlays, and the backgrounds of the overlays appears transparent. Control data is provided with the HTML files to indicate when the overlays should be rendered and to provide other instructions on how the HTML files should be handled by the receiving equipment.

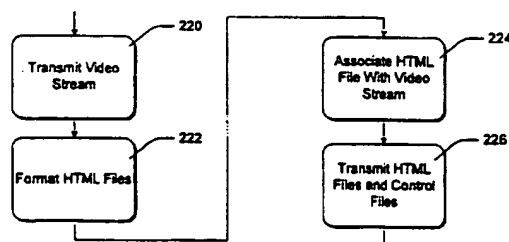


Fig. 4

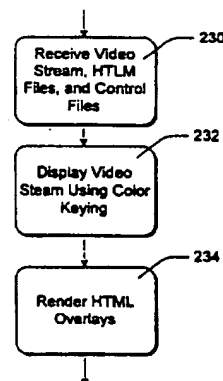


Fig. 5